

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /077 W

----- 014261

R 181407Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4627

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6660

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, US

SUBJ: ISRAELI MEDIA ON IDF PREPAREDNESS AND UNDOF MANDATE
RENEWAL

1. SUMMARY. ISRAELI MEDIA DEVOTE MAJOR ATTENTION TO
IDF READINESS MEASURES, US DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES
AND LESSENING OF STATE OF TENSION OVER LAST TWO
DAYS. WITH IMMEDIATE CONCERN RE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF
HOSTILITIES ON SYRIAN FRONT DIMINISHED, MEDIA
FOCUSSES ON DIFFICULTIES CONNECTED WITH RENEWAL OF UNDOF
MANDATE BY NOVEMBER 30. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI PRESS NOVEMBER 17-18 HAS SPOTLIGHTED STATEMENTS
BY RABIN AND PERES ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY
BACKGROUND TO WEEKEND PARTIAL MOBILIZATION, GENERAL
DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES TAKEN, AND RABIN'S ASSESSMENT
AT WEEKLY CABINET MEETING NOVEMBER 17 THAT
TENSION ON NORTHERN FRONT HAS DIMINISHED. CHIEF OF STAFF
GUR, SPEAKING ON ISRAEL RADIO NOVEMBER 17, TOLD ISRALIS
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THAT IDF READINESS WOULD CONTINUE AT LEAST UNTIL DEADLINE

IS REACHED FOR RENEWAL OF UNDOF MANDATE ON NOVEMBER 30.

3. HAARETZ (GOLAN) NOVEMBER 18 WRITES THAT, AS
CONDITON FOR SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO RENEWAL OF UNDOF
MANDATE, SYRIANS MAY TRY TO ALTER STATUS OF UN
FORCES FROM UNEF AUTHORIZED TO PREVENT AN ATTACK BY
ONE SIDE BY ALL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO OBSERVER BODY WITH
LIMITED FUNCTION OF REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS TO UNNSYG.
GOLAN, AFTER NOTING THAT SYRIAN DEMAND IS NOT NEW,
STAES THAT SYRIAN MOTIVATION FOR EFFECTING CHANGE IN
UNDOF STATUS WOULD BE TWO FOLD: A) TO FACILITATE
RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES IF AND WHEN SYRIA DECIDES TO USE
THIS OPTION, AND B) TO PROVE FOR PRESTIGE PURPOSES THAT
THEY HAVE RECEIVED APPROPRIATE COUNTERVALUE FOR
AGREEMENT TO RENEW MANDATE. GOLAN ESTIMATES THAT THERE
MAY BE CLASH IN SECURITY COUNCIL OVER THIS ISSUE, WITH US
EXPECTED TO JOIN ISRAEL IN STRONG OPPOSITION. JERUSALEM
SOURCES ALSO REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THAT SYRIA WILL
WITHHOLD ITS AGTEEMENT RE UNDOF RENEWAL TO LAST MOMENT
IN ORDER TO INCREASE BOTH MILITARY TENSION AND POLITICAL
PRESSURE.

4. HATZOFE REPORTS THAT SECRETARY HAS TOLD ISRAEL THAT US
WOULD REGARD SYRIAN REFUSAL TO EXTEND UNDOF MANDATE AS
VIOLATION OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HATZOFE ALSO
EXPECTS THAT SITUATION WILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED UNTIL LAST
MOMENT. WITH FAILURE TO MOBILIZE RESERVES PRIOR TO OUTBRAKE OF
OCTOBER 1973 WAR, HATZOFE CONCLUDES THAT VERY FACT OF
MOBILIZATION THIS WEEKEND LED TO INTENSE DIPLOMATIC
ACTIVITY WHICH, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, HAS DEFUSED
TENSION. HATZOFE SPECULATES THAT SIMILAR ISRAELI
INITIATIVE A YEAR AGO MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED
OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES.

5. MAARIV (BENN FROM WASHINGTON) CITING SENIOR US
SOURCE, WRITES THAT MAIN FACTOR IN ISRAELI ASSESSMENTS
OF POSSIBLE SYRIAN ATTACK WAS "DISCOVERY" OF MAJOR
SOVIET ARMS AIRLIFT. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THESE PLANES
DELIVERED SCUD MISSILE PARTS TO SYRIA.
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ALTHOUGH CONTENTS OF CARGO WAS NOT KNOWN, THERE WAS NO
DOUBT RE URGENCY OF THE DELIVERIES. WHILE TENSIO HAS
RELAXED FOLLOWING EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ASSURANCES TO US,
IT IS KNOWN THAT SOVIET AIRLIFT IS CONTINUING.

6. BARNEA, DAVAR CORRESPONDENT IN US, SAYS CHIEF US
WORRY IS POSSIBILITY OF ISRAELI PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST
SYRIA SHORTLY BEFORE EXPIRATION OF UNEF

MANDATE. ACCORDING BARNEA, US STATE DEPARTMENT
HOLDS THAT ISRAEL OVER-REACTED IN WEEKEND MOBILIZATION.
US FEELS, ACCORDING BARNEA "...DANGER OF IMMINENT
OUTBREAK OF WAR HAS PASSED, AND MAIN US DIPLOMATIC
EFFORTS MUST BE CONCENTRATED ON EXTENDING UNDOF MANDATE..."
SCHEDULED BREZHNEV-FORD TALKS IN VLADIVOSTOK
WILL FOCUS INTER ALIA ON EXTENSION OF MANDATE. " THE US WANTS
TO EXERT PRESSURE ON SYRIANS, THROUGH SOVIETS, TO
AGREE TO EXTENSION OF MANDATE ANOTHER SIX MONTHS."
BARNEA NOTES SOVIET RESERVATIONS RE SIZE AND COMPOSITION
OF UN FORCES AND POSSIBLE LACK OF ISRAELI
COOPERATION WITH NATIONS NOT MAINTAINING DIP RELATIONS
WITH HER.

7. IN MORE SWEEPING ANALYSIS, MAARIV'S WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT SEGEV REPORTS NOVEMBER 18 THAT,
ACCORDING TO " DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN WASHINGTON", MAJORITY
OF EXPERTS AT STATE AND DEFENSE BELIEVE ANOTHER WAR IS QUITE
LIKELY DESPITE CONTINUING US EFFORTS TO PREVENT NEW CONFRONTA-
TION. US SOURCES REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THAT POSITIONS OF
EGYPT AND SYRIA HAVE HARDENED AS RESULT OF TOTAL SOVIET
SUPPORT, " TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT NO NEGOTIATIONS ARE POSSIBLE."
UNDERSECRETARY SISCO REPORTEDLY TOLD ISRAELI TRANSPORTATION
MINISTER YAACOBI THAT " IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO SUPPORT YOU FULLY." SEGEV STATES THAT US HAS
PREPARED AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIRLIFT TO ISRAEL.
US PILOTS REPORTEDLY ARE PRACTICING IN-FLIGHT
REFUELING IN CASE NO EUROPEAN STATE WILL ALLOW REFUELING
ON GROUND. AT SAME TIME, US WILL TRY TO PERSUADE
SPAIN, PORTUGAL OR GREECE TO ALLOW US PLANES TO REFUEL
EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOBILIZATION, ARMED FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV06660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740332-0899
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741133/aaaabbrb.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI MEDIA ON IDF PREPAREDNESS AND UNDOF MANDATE RENEWAL
TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, US, UNDOF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005